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Serial No. 10/643,946

ASA-1145

Amendment

Responsive to Office Action dated October 31, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

MAR 31 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a perfluorocompound comprising a means for obtaining a gas flow by diluting a perfluorocompound with nitrogen or air;

a means for adding steam to said gas flow;

a reactor for bringing said gas flow containing the added steam into contact with a catalyst to decompose the perfluorocompound;

a heating means for heating said catalyst comprising Ni, Al and W as catalytically active ingredients and comprising a composite oxide of Ni and Al and a composite oxide of Ni and W which has been packed in said reactor, to the decomposition temperature of the perfluorocompound;

an exhaust gas washing tank for bringing a gas containing decomposition products produced in said reactor into contact with water or an alkali to remove hydrogen fluoride from the gas, wherein

a mole number of W is less than a mole number of Ni, and the mole number of Ni is less than a mole number of Al; and

said catalyst contains W in a proportion of 1 to 5 wt% based on a total weight of said catalyst comprising a composite oxide of Ni and Al.

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7. (Original) An apparatus for treating an etching gas wherein an apparatus for treating a perfluorocompound according to claim 6 is set so as to succeed an etching apparatus for a semiconductor or liquid crystal, whereby the etching gas is treated.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said catalyst comprises Ni and Al in a mole ratio of 5/95 to 40/60 and contains W in a proportion of 0.1 to 10 wt% based on the total weight of said catalyst comprising composite oxide of Ni and Al.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said catalyst comprises Ni and Al in a mole ratio of 5/95 to 40/60 and contains W in a proportion of 0.1 to 10 wt% based on the total weight of said catalyst comprising a composite oxide of Ni and Al.

10. (New) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said catalyst is produced by preparing the composite oxide of Ni and Al, and subsequently impregnating the composite oxide with a W compound.